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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KUWAIT 004990

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, OCTOBER 26-29: ICRC HQ
BOMBING; AMERICAN FORCES IN THE REGION; WAR ON TERROR;
MADRID DONORS CONFERENCE; IRAN: NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

[11.](#) SUMMARY: The Foreign Minister and the Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society both condemned the October 27 bombing of the ICRC offices in Baghdad. Amid opposition in the National Assembly to Kuwaiti contributions to Iraqi reconstruction, a former MP argues that, "a stable and civilized Iraq is in the interest of those concerned with the security and stability of Kuwait." A liberal writer believes the US will force Kuwait to drop compensation claims against Iraq "with or without the UN."

One commentator believes the US is using the Iranian nuclear issue to distract from the "failure" in Iraq. A conservative writer sees the war on terror as an "elastic mandate" for action in the region, and calls for the departure of American troops.

In the news, the death sentence of the Kuwaiti convicted of murdering an American civilian defense contractor in January 2003 was commuted to life in prison by the Court of Appeals. END SUMMARY.

[12.](#) News Stories: Al-Qabas reports that Kuwait's Foreign Minister Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabah and the Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society Barges Al-Barges denounced the October 27 bombing outside the ICRC office in Baghdad.

Al-Qabas reports on its October 29 front page that the Court of Appeals has commuted the death sentence against Sami Al-Mutairi- convicted of the January 21 murder of American civilian Defense Department contractor Michael Pouliot and attempted murder of a second American contractor- to life in prison.

On October 26, Al-Watan reports that five MPs have proposed a bill that would prohibit relinquishing Kuwaiti claims to compensations from Iraq.

Islamist MPs threaten a vote of no-confidence for the Minister of Education before the end of Ramadan, Al-Seyassah reports.

MP Jamal Al-Omar believes that the Amiri address to the opening of the National Assembly on October 20 contained threats to dissolve parliament, Al-Anba reports.

All newspapers report that Minister of Interior Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah affirmed that all "Bidoon" (stateless) POWs killed by the ousted Iraqi regime registered on the POW list will be granted Kuwaiti citizenship. Al-Watan reports that an "official source" has said there is no intention to naturalize any "Bidoon" this year.

Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Jassem Al-Khrafi expressed full support to "sister nation" Syria in the face of "the unjust Zionist campaign," Al-Qabas reports.

Editorials:

[13.](#) "Rumsfeld's Confidential Confession"
Dr. Yasser Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (10/28): "The memo sent by US Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to his senior officers on October 16 clearly demonstrates the Pentagon's confusion in the so-called war on terrorism. This memo creates great problems for him and the Bush administration, in addition to damaging American credibility in the international community. Rumsfeld must now confront Congress for deceiving it which may lead to his expulsion, unless the Zionists support him."

[14.](#) "Iranian Intelligence and the American Bull"
Salah Al-Fadli wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (10/29): "I believe that Uncle Bush's administration hoped to see Iran refuse to cooperate with the IAEA demands in order to justify a replay of the same scenario it played in Iraq."

However, Iran was intelligent enough not to fall into the American trap. It is certain that the American focus on the 'Iranian danger' is only an attempt to cover for its failure in Iraq. It is also certain that America will attempt to fabricate another crisis with Iran and the dispute will continue between Iranian intelligence and the American bull which has lost its sense."

15. "Unjustified Rush"

Former MP Ahmad Al-Rubei wrote in independent Al-Qabas (10/27): "MPs who rushed into criticizing Kuwait's contribution to Iraq during the donor's conference in Spain are called on to exercise wisdom. Using the phrase 'the Iraqi enemy' is irresponsible. We must work together with Iraqis to become friends and allies and to respect each other. A stable and civilized Iraq is in the interest of those concerned with the security and stability of Kuwait."

16. "America's Test Balloon"

Liberal Mohammad Al-Saleh wrote in independent Al-Qabas (10/27): "America is used to deploying test balloons to test popular and government reactions and then drawing its policies based on those reactions. America's demands [that Kuwait drop compensation claims against Iraq] can be achieved through the UN or without it. America, with its dominance over UN resolutions, has the capability to force the UN Security Council to write off the compensations. I believe the Kuwait's compensations will be called off with America's blessing and approval, because UN resolutions are not based on justice or rationality."

17. "Let Us Demand Their Departure"

Conservative Dr. Sami Khalifa wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (10/27): "President Bush justified the presence of American forces in the Gulf region in order to combat international terrorism. This is an elastic mandate that could be used to confront people who strive for independence such as the Palestinians and the Iraqis, or to strike against resistance movements in Palestine and Iran, or to subjugate Islamic powers in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. We have only one option which is to demand the departure of the American forces from the region and to withdraw their military bases in order to increase our independence and freedom."

JONES